

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: Masters of Public Administration

My name is Jasmin DeArmond and I truly appreciate your time and consideration into the Masters of Public Administration Degree Program at Evergreen State College Tacoma. I was born, raised and now I can say educated on the Hilltop. I have recently received my Bachelors of Liberal Arts from Evergreen State College Tacoma with 225 credits directed towards an emphasis in Public Health and Community Organizing. I believe earning a MPA degree will add more value in my career that I can better transmit back into my community. I have a major interest in public work and have a bigger investment in advocating for my community. I am an active community member, student, mother of four amazing sons, board member and lifetime learner. I am an example of what hard work and determination look like all while building generational stability through educational wealth. I've been taught that If no one disrupts the system the system never changes, because of this I believe that I am a suitable match for this program.

One of my great passions in life is the pursuit of human work. My interest in Public Administration grew when I was a young woman. I saw the advocacy both my grandmothers had in and for their communities. They urged me to participate in community events, local campaigns, volunteering and showing up. As a result I've found my own interest in advocacy work. I believe that the training in graduate school will provide me with the skills and focus I will need to continue my work. I've always been interested in my community and have earned 3 presidential volunteer awards for my services. My education at a liberal arts school gave me a solid foundation for my

grounded graduate studies in community leadership and professional career in community healing.

Early in life I realized how important telling your own story is. Which is why I became a Peer Counselor and worked with youth in high risk crises. I shared my lived experiences to build on relationships and connect with youth on ways to heal from trauma. For six years I worked as a Youth Partner, Peer Counselor. I provided support and facilitated services for youth and their families receiving Family Behavioral Health Services. I assisted youth by maintaining a focus on strengths, needs and creative solutions. I worked independently with others toward common goals, problem solving and solution seeking practices. Skills I found came in handy when working with families in the community. Being a Youth Partner I installed hope for the future by communicating and behaving with confidence and reassurance.

While working on my bachelors degree I took a leadership role as the Student Activities Board Librarian and board member for 3 years. In this role I was one of the only people that got to directly communicate and meet with students to help school book needs during the pandemic. I also was lucky enough to be on the Deans Outreach Team and connected with Alumni by supporting meetings and starting an alumni directory. While applying these advocacy needs I knew a future in Public Administration is where my heart is located.

At Evergreen I grew as a student and storyteller. I explored my generational journey and gained a better understanding of myself and family through exploring ways to address social justice by applying positive change. I had the opportunity to explore and examine recurring cycles in my own life. This course transformed my way of

viewing the world I thought I knew. We investigated the nature of economic, political and social power and how it was acquired and used in U.S. history. I was awoken to how race directly affects one's exposure to the inequitable distribution of environmental amenities and burdens that disproportionately impact vulnerable populations like mine on the Hilltop. We explored how low income and minority populations are disproportionately exposed to these toxic chemicals at higher rates. I fastly adapted new practices to keep myself and my family safer from these chemicals. Information I learned needs to be accessible to everyone and definitely used to apply change in current spaces.

My journey at Evergreen Tacoma has shaped me into the ambitious scholar I am today. An avid learner who absorbs knowledge for fun and growth. My time on campus taught me a lot about my role in this community. Throughout my research at Evergreen I have learned to confidently question everything. Attending Evergreen Tacoma has been an honor. One I was lucky to take at the exact moment in my life that I needed it. Because of Evergreen I will no longer silently witness the disparities in my community.

Everything that I have absorbed from my three years here has reflected in my growing understanding and knowledge of concepts, theories and ideas. Evergreen has empowered me to amplify my story. Which is why it feels right to continue my educational journey here. Earning this Masters Degree will give me the opportunity to sit at tables and open doors for real systemic change in my community. The education I will receive will prepare me to meet these challenges for real life situations that truly change lives. I look forward to working with like minded peers on collaborative elements that will allow me to hone in on my talents. I am a proud Greener and true Sankofa, capable of

anything and everything. I love Evergreen Tacoma and would appreciate nothing more than to continue my education here. Growing up in this community gives me faith and hope in its future.